



Dear Vallejo Community,

We're writing to share an important—and unusual—update. **After hearing candid feedback from applicants and community members and reflecting on our responsibility to do right by Vallejoans, we have made the difficult decision to pause this iteration of the grant program and rethink our approach.**

While we were encouraged by the quality and care of the applications we received for this current phase of funding, the total number of submissions was small relative to the depth of artistic and cultural work we know exists in Vallejo. The decision to pause is not about the size of the pool, but about the many artists who could have applied and did not. Alongside community feedback about the process itself, this signaled that the program was not working as intended.

From the beginning, the Vallejo Arts Fund was created in response to what we have consistently heard from artists and culture bearers in Vallejo: resources are scarce, financial pressures are real, and the creative ecosystem needs stronger support. The original goal of this program was to help build long-term capacity—so that artists and organizations in Vallejo were better positioned to access additional funding opportunities like this one in the future.

Because of that goal, we believe we have a responsibility to ensure that how this Fund is designed and implemented truly reflects community priorities. **The response to this recent cycle makes it clear that we need to step back, listen more deeply, and rethink the approach before moving forward – which we hope to do by late Spring or early Summer 2026.**

We want to be clear in acknowledging the time, labor, and care that went into this year's cycle. All panelists and eligible applicants will be compensated for the time they spent applying to the recent funding cycle. We recognize that this work represents real effort, and we believe it is important to honor that commitment, even as funding is temporarily paused.

Pausing this program is not a step away from our commitment—it's an expression of it. We would rather slow down, be accountable, and do this work better than continue with a model that isn't serving the community as it should.

We're grateful to everyone who shared feedback, applied, asked questions, or raised concerns. Your honesty matters and is helping guide our next steps. We also want to give special thanks to our partners in the most recent phase of grantmaking, Great Leap Inc. and Calling Up Justice. Their commitment to Vallejo, to this process, and to supporting artists was essential to this work. We're thankful for the time and care they brought to this partnership.

CCI remains deeply committed to supporting artists in this community and to showing up with care, accountability, and integrity. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us should you have any questions or concerns about this process or the next steps with the Fund.

With appreciation,
Center for Cultural Innovation